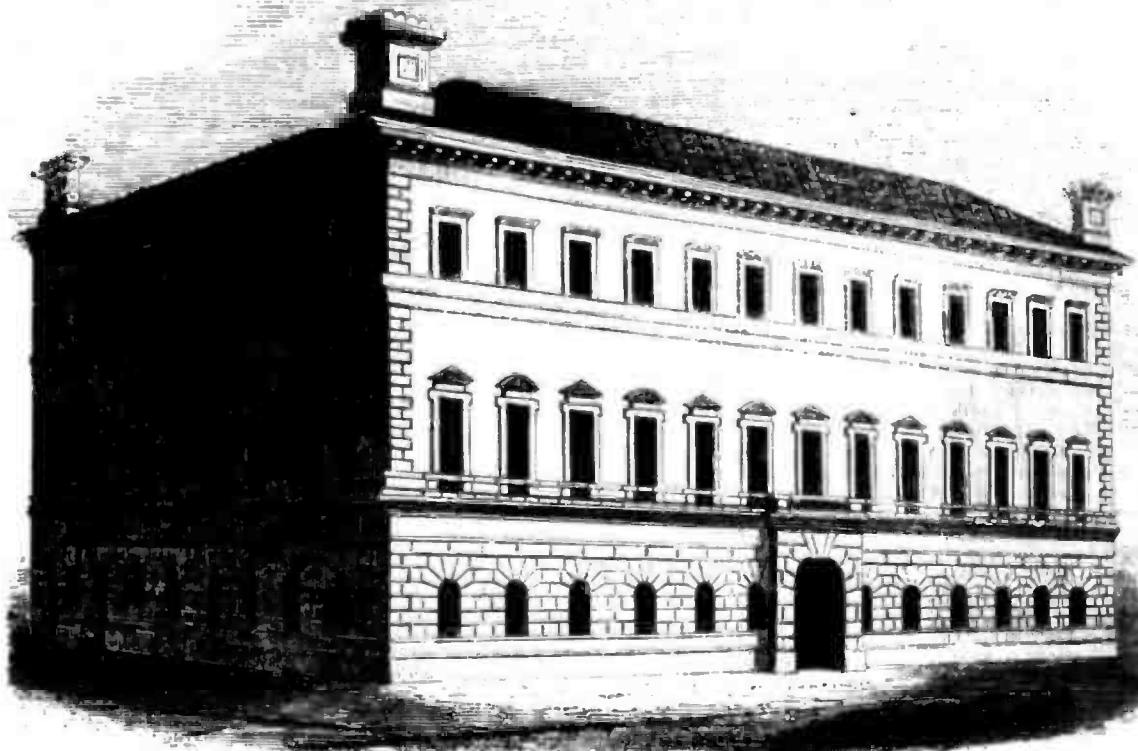


THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S HOUSE, IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

MR. W. J. SMITH, ARCHITECT.



THE BRITISH EMBASSY AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

THE palace for the British ambassador in Constantinople, of which the annexed engraving is a representation, was erected from the designs of Mr. W. J. Smith, architect to the embassy. It was not commenced, we understand, till 1845, and is now completed, so that its progress has been very rapid. Its style, as may be seen, is the domestic Italian, after the same model as the Reform Club-house, in Pall Mall. It is built of white stone, with a slated roof, and is wholly fitted up internally with fine mahogany and *papier mâché*. It stands in the Frank quarter, adjacent to the Russian palace.

Mr. Smith, as some of our readers may remember, made the sketches from which Mr. Burford painted his fine panorama of Constantinople.

The illustration, although, through circumstances not under our control, somewhat inferior to those usually given in our pages, is interesting, as affording evidence of the style in which England lodges her representatives in foreign climes.

ON SOME ANOMALIES OBSERVABLE IN THE EARLIER STYLES OF ENGLISH ARCHITECTURE.

THE current number of "The Archaeological Journal" contains several interesting papers on architectural subjects. By the kindness of the committee and the publisher, we are enabled to transfer to our pages one on some anomalies observable in the earlier styles of English architecture, by the Rev. C. H. Harris-borne. The main object of the writer seems to be, to show that what is called *long and short work*, taken by itself, furnishes no criterion of early date.

It has been usual, with those who have made inquiries into the style of our early ecclesi-

astical buildings, to assign all those exhibiting marks of long and short work to the period of the Anglo-Saxons. Yet it may be reasonably doubted whether construction of this nature, taken by itself, affords sufficient evidence to favour such conclusions: and unless this kind of masonry be found united with proofs of another character less ambiguous, there is great room for disbelieving such buildings to have been erected before the Norman conquest.

It is indeed not a little remarkable, that the church of Brixworth, a building whose claims to priority of age are better established than most others by historical inference, is entirely deficient in the marks so universally assumed to be decisive of the question.

This church, as it is well known, does not shew the least fragment of this peculiar kind of construction, yet there is perhaps more extrinsic evidence in favour of its age, than most other buildings that can be adduced. The history of its erection seems simply to have been this: that from its site having been fixed upon close to a great Roman thoroughfare, leading from the Watling-street, at Stony Stratford, through Northampton to Leicester, as is sufficiently indicated by the direct trending of the line, and the etymologies of the places bordering upon it, such as Potterspury, Alderton, Barrow Dykes, Lamport, Market Harborough, Stonyland, Stony Gate, &c.; and also being on the very edge of a Roman single walled entrenchment, there were already on the spot most of the materials which the Romans themselves had used for building purposes. Within this entrenchment, some kind of building had existed, and the bricks that were employed were found, when the church was in progress of erection, extremely useful to work up with the bad materials already dug. We are told by William of Malinesbury, that Benedict Bishop, on his return from Rome, introduced a new kind of architecture into this country,—what he calls *building more Romano*. Now, in whatever sense these two words are interpreted, I think they will still be applicable to the masonry of Brixworth Church; and this,

coupled with the casual passage quoted in Leland's "Itinerary," will go very far to confirm its Anglo-Saxon pretensions; in fact, it is more evidence of an early practical kind than can be brought to bear upon any other building of a Christian character in England.

It is now some years since I became entirely convinced that Brixworth Church presented no proof whatever of being a Roman building. I have examined its foundations, its construction, and the nature of its cements, all of which are totally unlike the substractions, the masonry, and the mortar so invariably adopted by the Romans.

Whilst, however, its Roman claims are completely untenable, it certainly offers very strong marks in favour of an Anglo-Saxon origin. They are not only as convincing as any we may ever hope to obtain elsewhere, but they are moreover capable of being divided into two periods.

It has already been stated that Brixworth does not present any specimen of long and short work; this peculiarity is not visible in any portion of the building. It is desirable to state this distinctly, because, having presumptive historical evidence of being an Anglo-Saxon church, it is deficient in that feature which is accounted the leading characteristic of Anglo-Saxon architecture.

It is not my intention to disprove (for that would be a difficult matter), the title to great antiquity those churches may claim, where long and short enignings are used, but I wish to throw out a caution to inquirers, lest this appearance should lead them to assign all these buildings to the same age.

That they are for the most part early structures there can be no doubt, and this epithet may be even extended above the Norman conquest, if we are justified in applying the words *lapides tabulatus*, as used by William of Malinesbury in his description of Benedict Bishop's churches, to those towers rising in stages from the perpendicular blocks of stone that run transversely on their four sides.

For instance, at Earl's Barton and Barback,

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